

TAMANEND 1683

Indian Spokesman for
Friendship with William Penn

By Gus Wiencke

TAMANEND was partner with William Penn in a boldly conceived agreement dated 1683 that Europeans and Indians would live together in peace *as long as the creeks and rivers run and while the sun, moon, and stars endure.*

Penn's unprecedented Indian treaties captured the imagination of Europe. Voltaire wrote about them as portent of a new age and an exception to European extermination and expulsion or even enslavement of the American Indians.

As an Indian, Tamanend trusted Penn and his lofty ideal of a commonwealth of freedom, peace, and tolerance for all the inhabitants.

TAMANEND, A VILLAGE SACHEM

The historical facts about Tamanend are based on some eight documents from the first fourteen years of Pennsylvania history. To these facts we can add the little that is known about the Lenape Indians.

Tamanend spoke an Algonkian language which was quite different from that of the Iroquois to the north. Modern anthropologists estimate the population of the Lenni Lenape or Delaware Indians to which Tamanend belonged as between 2500 and 12,000. Their presence rested light as a bird's wing over a vast region of forests and streams. It extended from north of the Raritan River across New Jersey to the ocean, and down into northern Delaware and all along the Delaware up to the Lehigh.

Tamanend lived in the forests between the Pennypack and the Neshaminy. Here the Indians hunted deer and beaver in the winter. In the warmer months they raised corn, beans, and squash in small clearings and fished in the Delaware for shad and herring. Tamanend's people lived in family groups, each family or clan making a tem-

COVER

TAMANEND OK KWENIKWUMAS (Tamanend and Mountain Lion).
By Wm Sauts Netamuxwe Bock, 1972. Painting done in response to a vision by the Indian artist, a resident of Souderton, Bucks County. Tamanend wears an elk robe and is tattooed with sacred symbols in the traditional way. Robe is decorated with porcupine quill embroidery in form of turtles, the sacred animal of the Unami clan. Brass, copper, and wampum decorate his ears and hair. Face shows strength combined with gentleness and indomitable humor.